



Show-Me Literacy

The "Official" Newsletter of Literacy in Missouri

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Technology Supervisor Joins Adult Ed Staff



Linda Hays

Linda Hays recently joined the staff of the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education's Adult Education & Literacy Section. Hays accepted the position of AEL Supervisor with a technology emphasis, beginning her duties in early December. She replaces Cheryl Zimmer.

A resident of Monroe City, Hays has been employed in various educational capacities. Her background includes working as a teacher and administrator with Monroe City R-1 Schools, an administrator with Marcelline R-5 Schools, and an English Associate Instructor with John Wood Community College and Moberly Area Community

College.

She holds certifications from Truman State and the University of Missouri at Columbia, and obtained her Education Specialist-Superintendency from Northwest Missouri State.

Hays says she became interested in Adult Education while working with adults who were returning to the community college because they had lost their jobs and needed retraining.

Married to her husband for 28 years, they have two sons, one married, and a daughter. Outside of the office, she enjoys reading, learning, computers, and spending time with her family and friends.

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Adult Ed Honor Society Benefits Programs, Members

AEL programs and students across the nation are reaping the benefits of an organization started just for them.

The National Adult Education Honor Society (NAEHS) is an organization that has recognized adult learners since 1993. Not affiliated with the high school National Honor Society where emphasis is on academics, NAEHS membership is instead based on attendance, cooperation and self-reliance, the same traits that employers look for in new hires.

More important than GED scores, employers need employees who show up for work, get along with other employees and don't require constant supervision. Students who have been selected by their local program for NAEHS recognition receive a letter of recommendation for employment from NAEHS headquarters that emphasizes these traits. Numerous adult learners have benefited from this letter with increased opportunity for employment. They also receive an NAEHS membership certificate and lapel pin.

**Honor Society,
Continued on Page 5**

From The State AEL Office

Budget Withholdings Should Not Affect FY03

The state AEL office reported this week that FY03 budget withholdings, due to state shortfalls, should not adversely affect local AEL programs or grant budgets.

Instead, the FY03 withholding is projected to be 3 percent (\$128,379), according to the AEL Section Director Steve Coffman. Last week, the state AEL office was discussing a potential 30 percent cut.

"We have really had a difficult two weeks in working with potential state budget withholdings," Coffman said. "I hope this is the end of budget discussions for the current year of funding."

The state had requested AEL programs provide information and impact projections should a 30 percent cut occur. Coffman said about half of the 46 state programs responded with that information, which he added may be useful in upcoming FY04 budget discussions and decisions.

Additional budget information will be provided at regional AEL Director's meetings scheduled for March 11 and 12.

State Hosts Technology Planning Meeting

The Missouri Adult Education and Literacy staff and Dr. Nancy Headrick, Assistant Commissioner for Vocational and Adult Education, recently hosted a statewide planning meeting comprised of local representatives. Several key issues were discussed, one of which related to distance learning. One to two additional

meetings will be scheduled to find an equitable way to address the online learning issues of funding, services and optimal delivery, according to AEL Section Director Steve Coffman.

Currently, the State only recognizes one online program in counting contact hours, Skills Tutor. That relationship with Skills Tutor will end June 30, 2003. The program was a pilot, which allowed programs to count the time students were logged into the system as contact hours. However, the state's goal is to develop necessary policies and procedures to further online learning, by July 1, 2003. Plans are to have a policy that will be appropriate for all types of learners while being fair to all vendors.

It is still undetermined whether local AEL programs will be making the purchasing decisions for online services, or if a statewide purchase is warranted. There are several complex issues (i.e. support, maintenance, access, equipment) that need further study before decisions can be made.

AEL Spring Director's Conference Canceled

The state AEL office recently announced the cancellation of the AEL Spring Director's Conference, usually conducted in April. AEL Section Director Steve Coffman said it was due to a request from directors to decrease the number of days they are required to attend meetings/workshops.

All AEL certified individuals (directors and/or instructors) must attend one in-service per year for each fiscal year to maintain their AEL teaching certificate. In the past, directors attended the Spring conference for in-service credit

and the Fall conference for workshop credit. Both of these requirements were attended to maintain AEL teaching certification for that fiscal year; however, with the cancellation of the Spring conference, all directors must attend an in-service before the end of June 2003 if they have not already done so.

Gene Variant Influences Memory, Scientists Say

NIH (National Institutes of Health) scientists have shown that a common gene variant influences memory for events in humans by altering a growth factor in the brain's memory hub. On average, people with a particular version of the gene that codes for brain derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) performed worse on tests of episodic memory - tasks like recalling what happened yesterday. They also showed differences in activation of the hippocampus, a brain area known to mediate memory, and signs of decreased neuronal health and interconnections. These effects are likely traceable to limited movement and secretion of BDNF within cells, according to the study, which reveals how a gene affects the normal range of human memory, and confirms that BDNF affects human hippocampal function much as it does animals'.

Michael Egan, M.D., Daniel Weinberger, M.D., National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), Bai Lu, Ph.D., National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and colleagues, report on their discovery in the January 24th issue of *Cell*. See the complete news release at http://www.nichd.nih.gov/new/releases/human_gene.cfm

Vocational, Adult Ed Photos to be Showcased on DESE Website

The Vocational and Adult Education Division of Mo-DESE is developing a photo "link" on the Department's website featuring vocational and adult education programs and services throughout the state, according to Dr. Nancy Headrick, Assistant Commissioner.

The link will be modeled after the "Art Student" located on the Department's home page.

The Division is requesting assistance from Area Career/Technical School Directors, Community College Vocational Deans, Adult Education and Literacy Directors, and GED Test Chief Examiners by asking them to send in photographs of the career and adult students in their programs that showcase the good work they are doing. Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) activities are welcome. There is no limit to the number of photographs to be submitted.

To submit photographs, the following guidelines should be followed:

1. Photos must be submitted in .jpg or .gif format. Accompanying narrative must be submitted in Word or e-mail format. The narrative information provided may include individual identifying information such as first name, last name, age, grade level, name of the program, school name (including sending school if appropriate), city, location of school, employer name if applicable, and description of activity depicted. This narrative will be posted with each photo. Staff will use key words of the narrative to create a non-text equivalent for each photo to ensure compliance with the Department's web-content accessibility guidelines.

2. The parent or individual student must sign a Department Internet Permission form to display his or her photo(s) on the

TOTALLY

E News and
C notes from the
H Missouri Adult
N Education &
O Literacy
L Technology
O Center.
G **Technology**
Y **staff:**
Jamy Preul
Jason Ralls
Phyllis Shelby
Randy Powell
Director:
John Stains

Trainer Spotlight



Jason Ralls

Jason Ralls began working on computers in high school and with the inspiration of his high school Math/Computer instructor, decided to make it his career.

He joined the staff of the AEL Technology Center in September following summer employment at the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Jason began attending Missouri Western State College in St. Joseph in 1997 and graduated in May 2001 with a degree in Computer Science.

He resides in Utica, a town of 200, where he was born and raised.

He says he is really enjoying the job thus far and working with the various people and programs. Jason's assigned program service area is the North Area, covering 11 programs and communities.

"I was a little nervous about the trainings at first, but now I'm settled in and I enjoy giving them," Jason says. "And those attending seem to enjoy the trainings, too, so it's a good experience for everyone."

Jason's "in-office day" is Thursday and on that day, he can be reached at (660) 646-3097; email is aelnorth@socket.net.

website. These forms are available at www.dese.state.mo.us/divvoted/forms.htm. Permission forms may be faxed to Michelle Baumstark, Information Technology Coordinator, at (573) 526-4261 or mailed to her at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0480.

3. The Department reserves the right to exclude photos and narrative that may be deemed as inappropriate.

4. The Department will rotate photos at its discretion.

5. Photos and narratives should be submitted to:
vaeartgallery@mail.dese.state.mo.us

"We are excited about the opportunity to feature students on our website, and we look forward to everyone's participation," said Headrick.

For questions or additional information, contact Michelle Baumstark at (573) 526-1820.

GED Testing Decline Expected from 2002 Report

Preliminary reports for 2002 indicate a sharp decline in GED testing: just over 8,000 took the test and approximately 6,000 certificates were issued, according to the Missouri State GED office.

During 2000 and 2001, a total of 27,354 Missourians took the GED Test for the first time in a rush to “beat the clock” and avoid the new 4th generation of the test introduced January 1, 2002.

However, the passing rate has increased slightly and those who passed the test did quite well.

In 2001, 37 percent of GED passers scored above the 50th percentile (the average passing score achieved by graduating high school seniors). In 2002, 48 percent of the GED passers scored above the 50th percentile. **(See related chart at right.)**

One final positive note: the highest GED score achieved in Missouri during 2002 was 3,900 (of a possible 4,000).

Computers Top List of Fastest Growing Careers

Not surprisingly, computer engineers and software specialists top the list of fastest-growing careers, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Other occupations making the list include speech-language pathologists, health aides, and medical assistants. The list makes clear that the majority of careers in the next decade will require some form of post-secondary education. To view the complete list, visit:

www.ed.gov/offices/OVAE/news/natlking.html.

Average Standard Scores and Selected U.S. High School Senior Class Rank Equivalencies

National Class Rank	Total Score of Five GED Tests	Number of Mo GED Recipients Who Achieved This Score
Top 1%	3440	127
Top 2%	3340	91
Top 3%	3290	71
Top 5%	3230	104
Top 10%	3100	313
Top 15%	3010	283
Top 20%	2910	420
Top 25%	2850	287
Top Third	2700	967
Top 40%	2640	443
Top Half	2510	1,128
Top Two-Thirds	2310	1,742
Top 70%	2250	431

New Discussion List Developed for Adult Literacy Professionals

Jaleh Behrooz Soroui, National LINCS Director with the National Institute for Literacy in Washington D.C., recently announced the development of the AALPD (Association of Adult Literacy Professional Developers) Discussion List. This is a new NIFL forum for adult literacy professional developers to share information, communicate fresh ideas and promising practices, discuss challenges, and interact collaboratively with each other, contributing to the knowledge base of the field. The list also focuses on local and state professional development systems, models, and strategies for staff development, and provides an ongoing link to the latest national research and initiatives in the evolving field of adult literacy professional development.

The AALPD discussion list is sponsored by the Association for Adult Literacy Professional Developers and is moderated by Jackie Taylor, Program Coordinator, at the Center for Literacy Studies, the University of Tennessee. The list is open to all adult educators working or interested in Professional Development.

To subscribe to NIFL-AALPD, visit <http://www.nifl.gov/lincs/discussions/nifl-aalpd/aalpd.html>.

Honor Society

Continued from Page 1

Founded to recognize adults' regular attendance in ESL, ABE, GED and literacy classes, adult education practitioners find that an NAEHS chapter is easy to start. They simply request an NAEHS Charter, decide whom to recognize and inform NAEHS of the number of students that have been selected for NAEHS membership. The honor society then mails recognition materials to the school. Upon receipt of the materials, the local program holds an induction ceremony, either as part of a formal graduation exercise or in a separate ceremony.

The honor society assists local programs with their first induction ceremony, provides free classroom posters to encourage students to strive for NAEHS membership and produces an annual roster of each program's honorees.

The Santa Cruz (California) program selected eight adult learners for NAEHS membership in the June graduation exercise. Students wore gold honor cords and were accompanied by a family member who pinned them following appropriate remarks by the school principal. School personnel termed the first induction ceremony "a great success."

In Harris County (Texas) Adult Education Program, a teachers' committee selects new Honor Society members who take an active role in school endeavors. Student selection is based on a minimum attendance of 40 hours and a strong commitment to their family's education. NAEHS members are invited to sit on the program's Student Advisory Council. This group of adult learners visits local high schools to encourage young students to stay in school. In a Harris County teachers' orientation, the staff enjoyed learning "best practices" when the Student Advisory Council shared what had worked best for them as adult learners. While most Harris County NAEHS members are ESL students, those who

receive a GED wear white gowns and gold honor cords at their graduation exercise.

Another Arizona community college program held their first induction ceremony with the College President introducing the Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees as the program's speaker. Students later discussed their futures with the college officials. The NAEHS chapter offered an opportunity for the administrators to meet the program's best students.

The cost to recognize each student is \$12. A one-time \$50 Charter fee includes a beautiful NAEHS banner. In Kentucky, several programs have successfully obtained sponsors who pay all costs for recognition of up to 50 NAEHS students a year.

A student's only requirement is to share with family, friends and co-workers what adult education has meant to them. They never pay dues, take oaths or have any other obligation except to help promote adult education in their community. NAEHS primary goals are to improve student ambassadors for local programs.

"Recognizing deserving adult students is important," according to NAEHS director Lloyd Weaver, who recalls when one of his literacy students was killed in a tragic work-related accident. At the funeral home, he realized his student wore the NAEHS pin that had been pinned on him just weeks before. The student's wife later told him, "You people at that school have no idea how important that was to my husband!" Weaver believes, "Something like that makes you realize the importance of student recognition and its implications."

To contact NAEHS, phone (859) 781-8824 or go to www.neahs.org for an online charter application, history and program details.

SCLA Announces Conference Dates

The South Central Literacy Action (SCLA) announced its upcoming conference June 8-12, 2003 in Fayetteville, Ark. SCLA has a rich tradition, spanning over 30 years, of offering quality, affordable conferences. The five days will include plenary speakers, instructional presentations, a town meeting and lots of networking for \$325, including all meals. In addition, Early Bird and student discounts are available. Dr. Bob Laubach and Marsha Tait will be among the plenary speakers.

SCLA is a non-profit, volunteer organization affiliated nationally with ProLiteracy America, and provides training, support, and leadership for individuals and programs in Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Kansas, Texas, and Oklahoma. Visit the web site at <http://www.south-central-literacy-action.org/> where a Call for Presentations Form and a Conference Registration Form along with travel information may be downloaded. For more information, contact Robert Pinhero, Conference Chair, at info@south-central-literacy-action.org

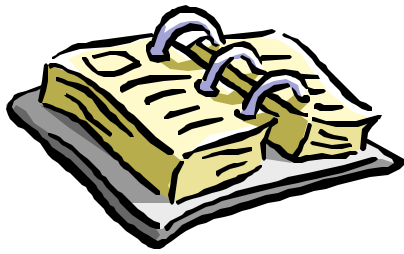
Poverty Levels At All-Time High

Nearly 33 million Americans have fallen into poverty - more people than a year ago, the highest number in years. What does it mean to the life of our nation to have so many people lost in a shadowy state of uncertainty and need? What does it mean to be poor in America - to be a resident of the forgotten state of poverty? Click on *Poverty Tour* on

<http://www.usccb.org/cchd/povertyusa/tour2.htm>.

Poverty USA site:

<http://www.usccb.org/cchd/povertyusa/index.htm>.



Show-Me...

What's Happening

Regional Director's "Drive-in" Meetings

March 11 or 12, 2003
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Various regional locations statewide

NAASLN (National Association for Adults with Special Learning Needs) Conference

March 16-18, 2003
Columbus, Ohio
www.naasln.com

MVAEA (Mo. Valley Adult Ed. Assoc.) Annual Spring Conference

April 2-4, 2003
DoubleTree Hotel
Omaha, Neb.
www.mvaea.com

2002 COABE National Conference

April 26-30, 2003
Portland, Ore.
www.ninestar.com/coabe

Wanted: Your Success Stories!

"Show-Me Literacy" is looking for program "success stories"--whether it be about students, instructors, overall program achievement, or other successes you would like to share with readers. A special issue will be developed highlighting and sharing AEL successes, so send them in!

Show-Us...Your Stuff!

If you have comments, questions, or story ideas, please send them to Cheryl Harlan, Editor,
by Mail:

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1304 E. 10th Street
Rolla, MO 65401

Phone: 573•458•0150

Fax: 573•458•0155

Email:

charlan@rolla.k12.mo.us

**Digital photos requested;
regular photos will be scanned.**

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Karen Jones, Missouri State Library, Jefferson City.

Margaret Silver, English Language and Literacy Center, St. Louis.

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